

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2021 Reporting Week 51: December 19 — December 25



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

Influenza (Flu) and COVID-19 Increasing

During Week 51, Okaloosa experienced an increase in both COVID-19 and influenza-like illness (ILI) activity. The COVID-19 community risk was elevated to HIGH. On December 27, the CDC [updated the COVID-19 isolation and quarantine recommendations](#) for the public. [Guidance for managing healthcare personnel](#) with COVID-19 exposure or infection was also updated to enhance protection for staff, patients, and visitors.

COVID-19 vaccination counts in Okaloosa County continue to increase slowly (see page 3). Providers are encouraged to review CDC's [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Resources for Health Professionals](#) for counseling on co-administration of COVID-19 and flu vaccines, patient education, and the 2021-22 flu vaccine composition. Please continue to promote the COVID-19 vaccine as it is highly effective at preventing severe disease and death. For more information on the Omicron variant, please visit [Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know](#).

COVID-19 Booster Shots and Monoclonal Antibody Resources

On October 21, 2021, the [CDC Expanded Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots](#). The CDC recommends that certain people are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 **booster** shot, including those who received Moderna and J&J/Janssen COVID-19 vaccines. Additionally, CDC continues to recommend that [moderately and severely immunosuppressed people](#) who completed either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine series get a **third dose** of the same mRNA vaccine at least 28 days after the second dose as they may not build the same level of immunity to 2-dose vaccine series compared to people who are not immunocompromised.

FREE [Monoclonal Antibody Treatments](#) are available in Okaloosa for adult and pediatric patients (12 and older) either diagnosed or exposed to someone with COVID-19 and at high risk for severe illness, hospitalization, or death from COVID-19. Please follow the link for all locations.

Contact Us:

**Florida Department of Health
in Okaloosa County**

Epidemiology Section

**24/7 Disease Reporting:
850-833-9065**

**Confidential Fax:
850-833-7577**

okaloosaepi@flhealth.gov

COVID-19 Snapshot

Week 51 Review		Difference from Wk50
Resident Case Count	260	+136
Resident Case Count per 100K Population	126	+65.9
Average Resident Cases per Day	37.1	+19.4
Percent Positivity	6.7%	+2.4

Data Source: Merlin Database

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with county COVID-19 data, including deaths.

Please visit the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) webpage to obtain death data by downloading the most recent excel file and locating Okaloosa on the 'Counties' tab.

For questions related to COVID-19 death data, please contact the FDOH Office of Communications at 850-245-4111 or NewsMedia@flhealth.gov.

Week 51 Community Risk Level		
COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
HIGH	126	6.7%
PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: SUBSTANTIAL		
Low	<10	<5%
Moderate	10-49	5-7.9%
Substantial	50-99	8-9.9%
High	>100	>10%

Community risk level is the color of the higher risk level for the two indicators.

Data Source : CDC [Community Indicators at the County Level](#)



COVID-19 Fully
Vaccinated =
No Quarantine

COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 51: December 19 — December 25

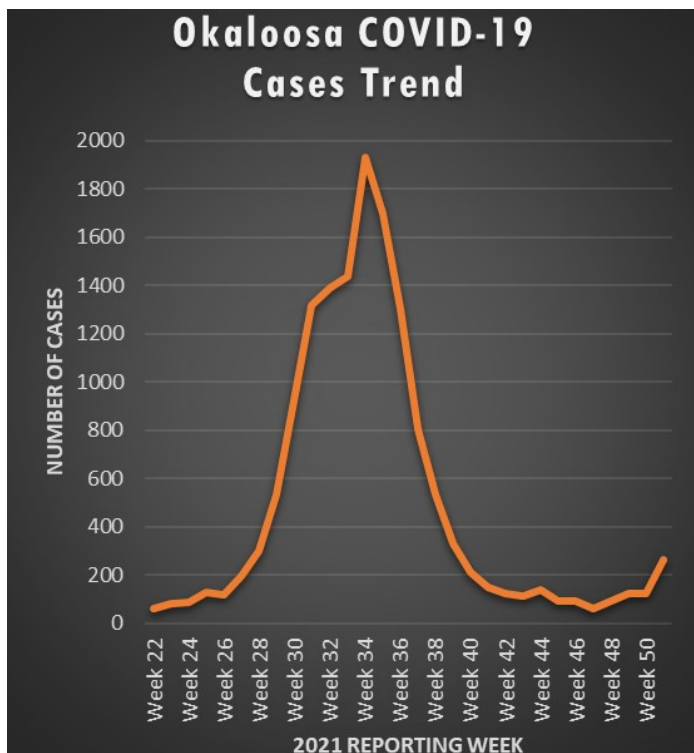


Figure 1: Trend of total COVID-19 cases by week. Data source: Merlin Database

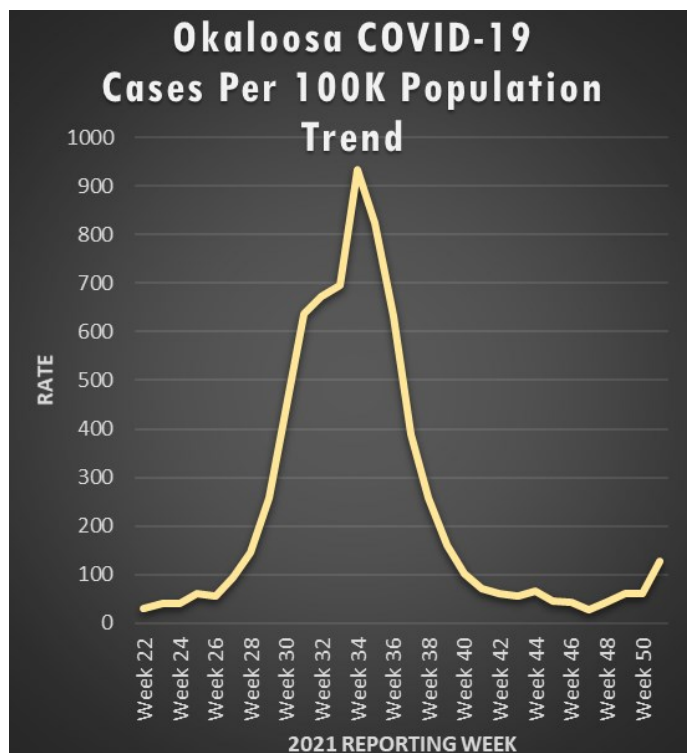


Figure 2: Trend of COVID-19 case rates by week. Data source: Merlin Database

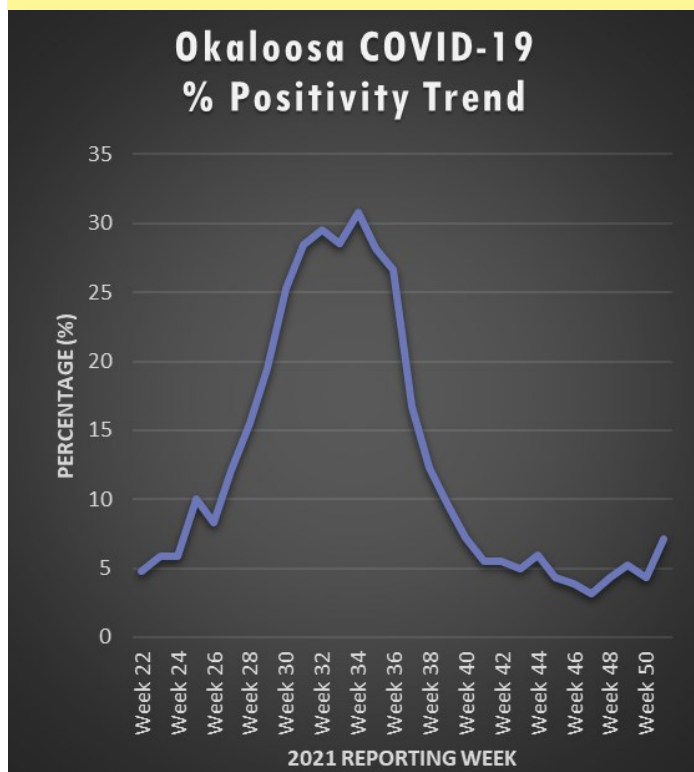


Figure 3: Trend of 7-day moving percent positivity of COVID-19 cases by week.
Data source: Merlin Database

COVID-19 Cases by Age Group			
Age Group	Okaloosa Resident Cases since 03/01/21 through Week 51	% by Age Group	Difference from Week 50
0-11	2108	12.7%	+14
12-14	724	4.4%	+4
15-24	2547	15.3%	+44
25-44	5715	34.4%	+110
45-64	3860	23.2%	+64
65-74	1016	6.1%	+12
75-84	433	2.6%	+10
85+	219	1.3%	+2
Unknown	5	0.0%	0
Total	16627	100%	+260

Data Source: Merlin Database



COVID-19 Fully
Vaccinated =
No Quarantine

COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 51: December 19 – December 25

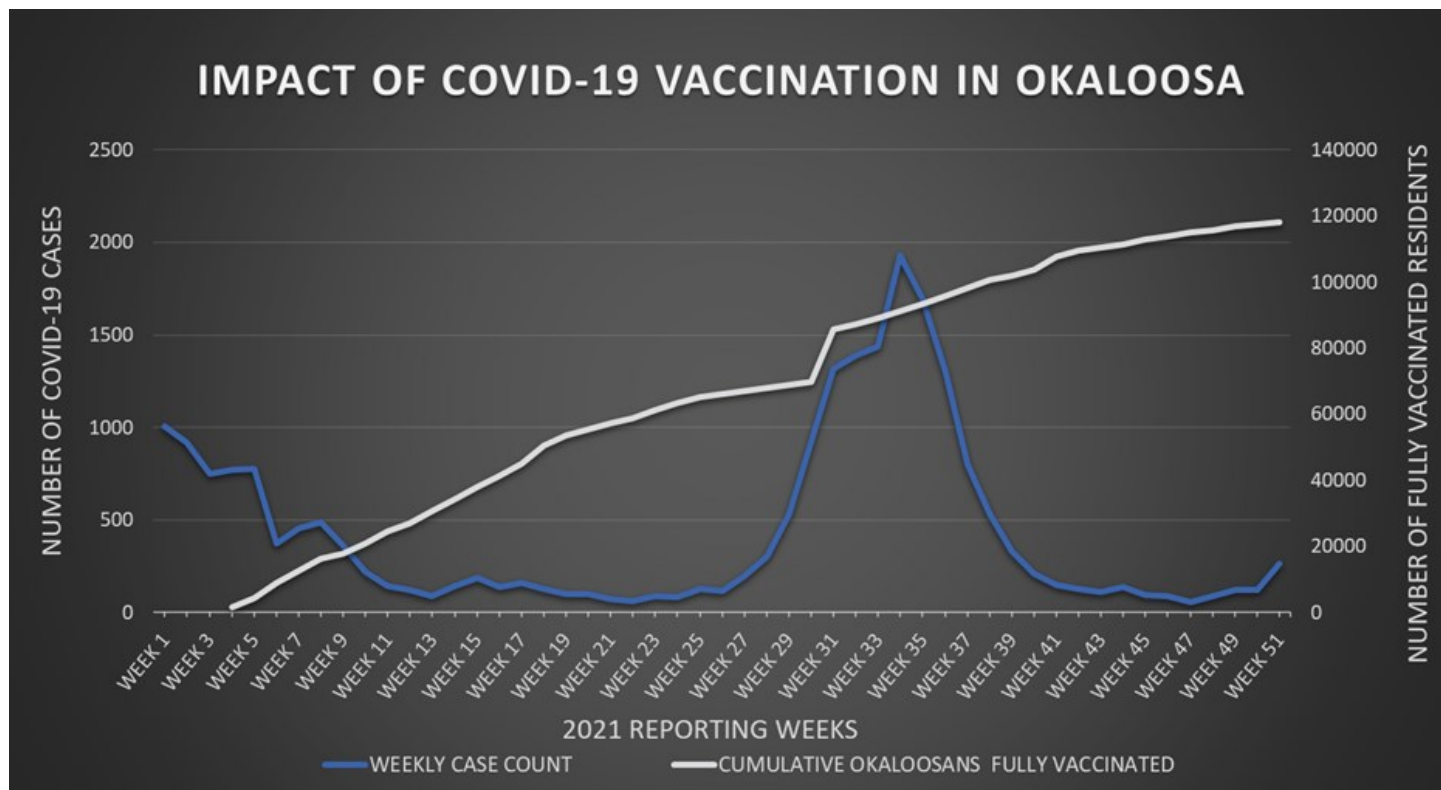


Figure 4: Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

VACCINATION DATA RESOURCE

The CDC COVID Data Tracker presents county level vaccination data that includes vaccinations from:

- FL SHOTS, including FL Department of Health, retail pharmacies, and long-term care facilities,
- Dialysis centers participating in the Federal Dialysis Center Program,
- Health Resources and Services Administration partner sites, and
- Federal entities such as Department of Defense, Veterans Health Administration, Indian Health Service and Bureau of Prisons.

Percentage of
Breakthrough
Infection in
Fully-Vaccinated
Individuals:

1.92%

Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Fully-Vaccinated Groups	OKALOOSA	US
% of Population \geq 5 Years of Age	59.9%	65.6%
% of Population \geq 12 Years of Age	65.6%	70.9%
% of Population \geq 18 Years of Age	68.2%	72.6%
% of Population \geq 65 Years of Age	91.3%	87.5%

Data reported through previous Sunday. Data Source: CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 51: December 19 — December 25

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

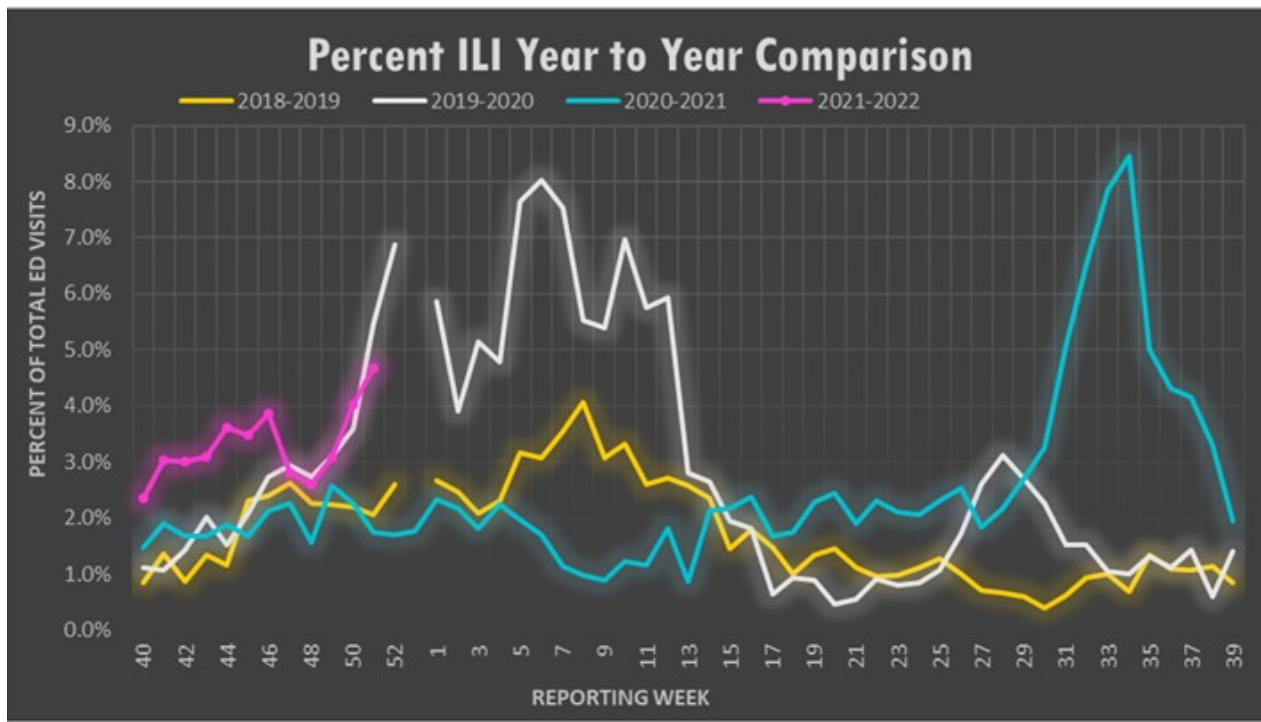


Figure 5: Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa County for the 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21 influenza seasons by week. Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 51, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported an increase in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County increased from 4.06% during Week 50 to 4.66% during Week 51. Flu partners reported no positive rapid influenza tests this week. Over the past three weeks, 51 out of 247 influenza specimens submitted to the state lab were positive (3 Influenza A H3, 38 Influenza A unspecified, 10 Influenza B unspecified). There were no ILI admissions, outbreaks, or deaths reported this week. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 51 is higher than that of Week 51 last year.

Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

**% ILI by Age Group
Week 51, 2021**

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	24	170	14.12%
5-19	26	241	10.79%
20-34	16	409	3.91%
35-54	14	489	2.86%
55-74	10	491	2.04%
75+	6	259	2.32%

Data Source: ESSENCE

**% of Total ILI Visits by Facility
Week 51, 2021**

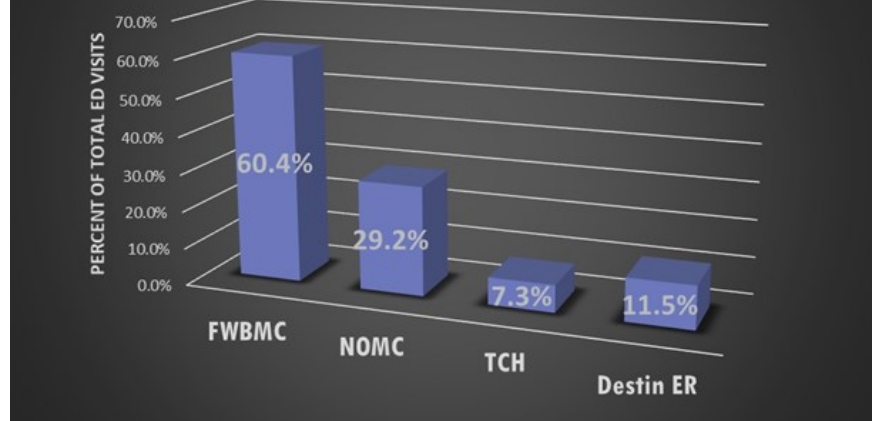


Figure 6: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=96). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 51: December 19 — December 25

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

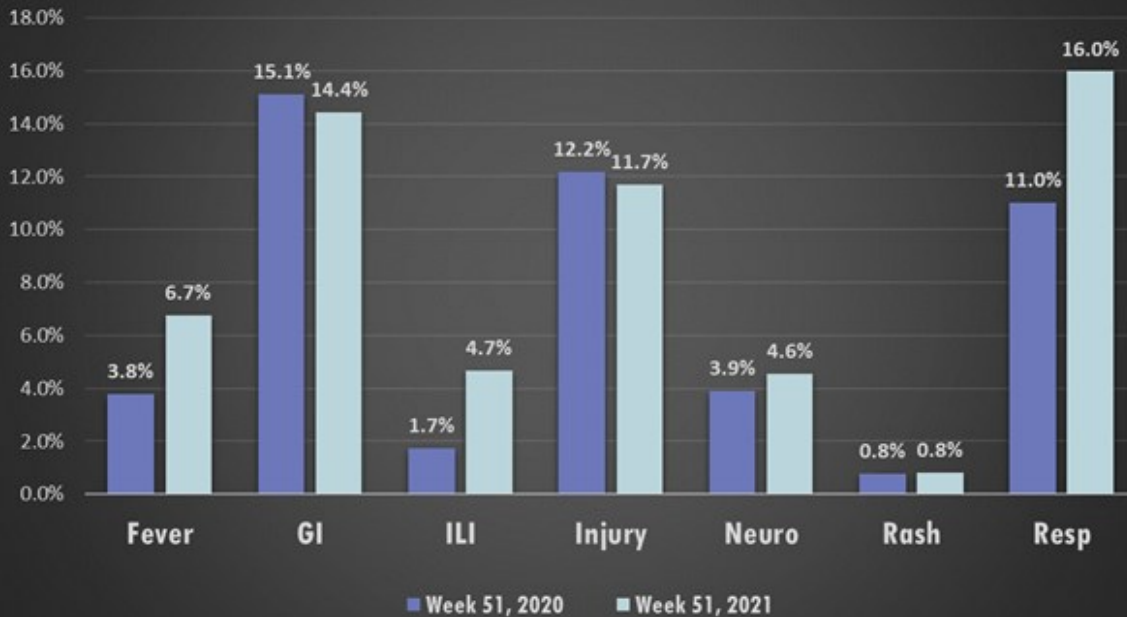
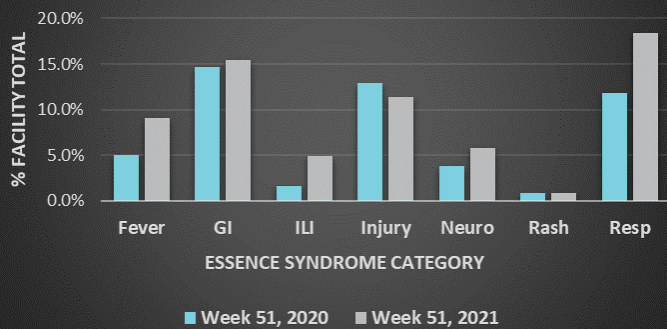


Figure 7: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2021 Week 51 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2060). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%.

Data source: ESSENCE

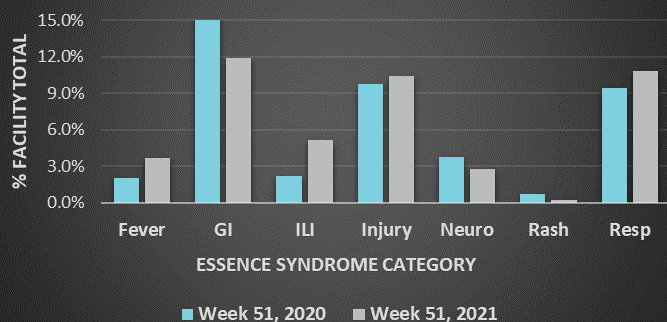
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 51—Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	40
5-19	RESP	31
20-34	GI	47
35-54	GI	35
55-74	RESP	34
75+	RESP	23

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 51—North Okaloosa Medical Center

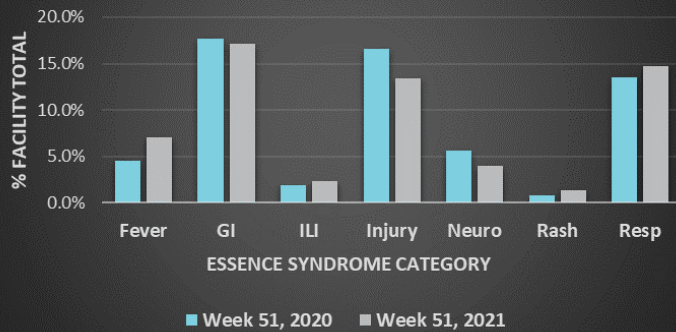
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	GI, RESP	9, 9
5-19	GI, RESP	9, 9
20-34	GI	13
35-54	INJURY	13
55-74	GI, RESP	18, 18
75+	INJURY	14



Syndromic Surveillance

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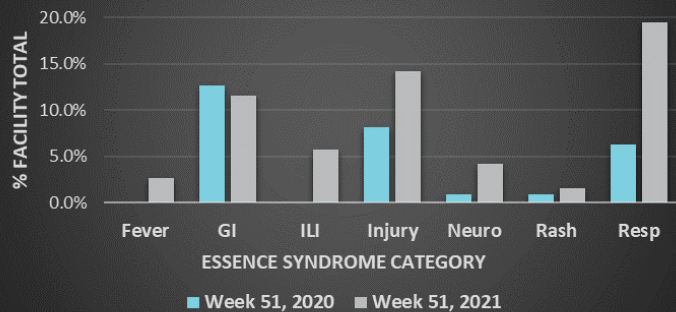
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 51—Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	6
5-19	GI	13
20-34	RESP	12
35-54	RESP	12
55-74	GI	13
75+	INJURY	11

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 51—Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	6
5-19	ILI, RESP	7, 7
20-34	GI	8
35-54	INJURY	12
55-74	RESP	11
75+	INJURY	2

Week 51—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	RESP
5-19	RESP
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	RESP
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE